

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A spinal implant system, comprising:
2 a vertebral prosthesis having a support and an endplate, and
3 an artificial spinal disc coupled to the endplate.
- 1 2. The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the endplate has a
2 structure adapted to interlock with the artificial spinal disc.
- 1 3. The spinal implant system of claim 2, wherein the structure prevents
2 rotation of the artificial spinal disc relative to the endplate.
- 1 4. The spinal implant system of claim 2, wherein the artificial spinal disc
2 comprises a core disposed between two plates and wherein one of the two plates is
3 removed prior to being coupled with the structure.
- 1 5. The spinal implant system of claim 2, wherein the structure is at least
2 one of a flange and a recess.
- 1 6. The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the endplate and the
2 support are adapted to be threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.
- 1 7. The spinal implant system of claim 1, further comprising a pedicle
2 screw retainer coupled to at least one of the endplate and the support.
- 1 8. The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the support is adjustable
2 to change the height of the support.
- 1 9. The spinal implant system of claim 8, further comprising a second
2 endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate adapted to be coupled to a
3 second artificial spinal disc.
- 1 10. The spinal implant system of claim 8, further comprising a second
2 endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate having teeth adapted to be
3 coupled to a bone.

1 11. A vertebral prosthesis adapted to be implanted adjacent a spinal disc
2 prosthesis, comprising:
3 a shaft;
4 an endplate coupled to one end of the shaft, the endplate adapted to be
5 implanted adjacent a disc prosthesis, thereby obviating the need to fuse the endplate to
6 an adjacent vertebra.

1 12. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, further comprising a second
2 endplate coupled to an other end of the shaft, wherein the second endplate comprises
3 one or more teeth configured to directly interface with an other adjacent vertebra,
4 thereby allowing fusion of the vertebral prosthesis with the other adjacent vertebra
5 while preserving motion between the vertebral prosthesis and the adjacent vertebra.

1 13. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, further comprising a second
2 endplate, wherein the second endplate is adapted to be implanted adjacent a second
3 disc prosthesis.

1 14. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the disc prosthesis
2 comprises a core held between two plates and wherein one of the two plates is
3 removed prior to being implanted adjacent the endplate.

1 15. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the endplate and the shaft
2 are adapted to be screwed, threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

1 16. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, further comprising a pedicle
2 screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft and the endplate.

1 17. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the height of the shaft is
2 adjustable.

1 18. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the shaft is at least
2 partially constructed of a mesh.

1 19. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the disc prosthesis
2 comprises a core situated between two plates and wherein one of the two plates is
3 removed prior to being inserted into the recess.

1 20. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 19, further comprising a pedicle
2 screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft and the endplate.

1 21. A vertebral prosthesis, comprising:
2 a shaft;
3 a first endplate coupled to a first end of the shaft, the first endplate
4 having a recess adapted to receive an artificial spinal disc; and
5 a second endplate coupled to a second end of the shaft.

1 22. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the second endplate
2 comprises one or more teeth configured to interface with an adjacent vertebra.

1 23. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the second endplate has a
2 second recess adapted to receive a second artificial spinal disc.

1 24. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the artificial spinal disc
2 comprises a core situated between two plates and wherein one of the two plates is
3 removed prior to the disc being inserted into the recess.

1 25. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the first endplate and the
2 shaft are adapted to be screwed, threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

1 26. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, further comprising a pedicle
2 screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft, the first endplate, and the second
3 endplate.

1 27. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the shaft is adjustable to
2 change the height of the shaft.

1 28. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the shaft is at least
2 partially constructed of a mesh.

1 29. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 21, wherein the recess prevents
2 rotation of the artificial spinal disc relative to the first endplate.

1 30. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 29, wherein the second endplate has a
2 second recess adapted to receive a second artificial spinal disc.

1 31. The vertebral prosthesis of claim 30, further comprising a pedicle
2 screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft and the endplate.

1 32. A vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses,
2 comprising:
3 a shaft;
4 an endplate tray coupled to the shaft, the endplate tray configured to be
5 implanted adjacent a first artificial disc having a first shape and a second artificial disc
6 having a second shape, wherein the first shape is different from the second shape.

1 33. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, wherein the first artificial spinal disc comprises a core between two plates
3 and wherein one of the two plates is removed prior to being implanted adjacent the
4 endplate tray.

1 34. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, wherein the endplate tray and the shaft are adapted to be screwed, threaded,
3 snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

1 35. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, further comprising a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the
3 shaft and the endplate tray.

1 36. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, wherein the shaft is adjustable to change the height of the shaft.

1 37. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

1 38. The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of
2 claim 32, wherein the first artificial disc is manufactured by a first manufacturer and
3 the second artificial disc is manufactured by a second manufacturer, wherein the first
4 manufacturer is different from the second manufacturer.

1 39. A vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates,
2 comprising:
3 a shaft;
4 a first endplate having a first side adapted to be coupled to a first end
5 of the shaft and a second side dimensioned to be coupled to a first artificial disc; and
6 a second endplate having a first side adapted to be coupled to the first
7 end of the shaft in place of the first endplate and a second side dimensioned to be
8 coupled to a second artificial disc, the second artificial disc having a different
9 configuration from the first artificial disc.

1 40. The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of
2 claim 39, wherein the first artificial disc comprises a core between two plates and
3 wherein one of the two plates is removed prior to being implanted adjacent the first
4 endplate.

1 41. The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of
2 claim 39, wherein the first endplate and the shaft are adapted to be screwed onto one
3 another.

1 42. The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of
2 claim 39, further comprising a pedicle screw retainer coupled at least one of the shaft,
3 the first endplate, and the second endplate.

1 43. The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of
2 claim 39, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

1 44. A method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent spinal
2 disc, comprising:
3 opening an aperture in a patient to permit access to a vertebral body to
4 be replaced;
5 removing at least a portion of the vertebral body;
6 removing a spinal disc located adjacent the vertebral body;
7 selecting a vertebral prosthesis to be implanted into the space created
8 by the removal of the vertebral body and the spinal disc;
9 selecting an artificial disc to be implanted between the vertebral
10 prosthesis and an adjacent vertebra;
11 coupling the vertebral prosthesis to the artificial disc;
12 coupling the artificial disc to the adjacent vertebra; and
13 closing the aperture.

1 45. The method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent
2 spinal disc of claim 44, further comprising coupling a pedicle screw support to the
3 vertebral prosthesis and attaching at least one pedicle screw between the pedicle
4 screw support and a pedicle.

1 46. The method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent
2 spinal disc of claim 44, further comprising adjusting the height of the vertebral
3 prosthesis.

1 47. The method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent
2 spinal disc of claim 44, further comprising removing an endplate from the artificial
3 disc before coupling the artificial disc to the vertebral prosthesis.

1 48. The method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent
2 spinal disc of claim 44, further comprising packing bone graft or other bone growth
3 promoting materials around the vertebral body.

- 1 49. The method of replacing a vertebral body and at least one adjacent
- 2 spinal disc of claim 44, further comprising selecting an appropriate vertebral
- 3 prosthesis endplate and attaching the endplate to the vertebral prosthesis.